

future we are working toward. We need never run away from the dangers of our work run amok. We need never run away from our innate fear of the abuse of power, whether political or scientific. Indeed, the whole genius of our creation here in Philadelphia was the understanding that human nature is a mix of elements and all of them must be restrained. But we must never for a moment be afraid of the future. Instead, we must envision the future we intend to create.

Your bicentennial meeting can convene in a world where climatic disruption has been halted, where wars on cancer and AIDS have long since been won, where humanity is safe from the destructive force of chemical and biological weapons wielded by rogue states or conscienceless terrorists and drug runners, where the noble career of science is pursued and then advanced by children of every race and background, and where the benefits of science are broadly shared in countries both rich and poor. That is what I pray it will be like, 50 years from now, when

my successor stands here before your successors and assesses how well we did with our time.

Let me say, I believe in what you do. And I believe in the people who do it. Most important, I believe in the promise of America, in the idea that we must always marry our newest advances and knowledge with our oldest values, and that when we do that, it's worked out pretty well. That is what we owe our children. That is what we must bring to the new century.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. at the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Mildred S. Dresselhaus, president, M.R.C. Greenwood, president-elect, and Jane Lubchenco, chair, board of directors, American Association for the Advancement of Science; David Hamburg and John Holdren, members, President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology; and human cloning advocate Richard Seed.

## Statement on Signing the Holocaust Victims Redress Act *February 13, 1998*

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 1564, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act. This bill enables the United States Government to provide further assistance to needy Holocaust survivors and also strengthens current U.S. efforts aimed at encouraging countries that possess gold looted from Holocaust victims to donate those assets to the Nazi Persecution Relief Fund. It further recognizes the need for long overdue archival research and translation services to set the historical record straight.

My Administration has worked hard to bring whatever measure of justice might be possible to Holocaust survivors, their families, and the heirs of those who perished. We have pressed for restitution of property and for the full declassification of archives so that confiscated assets can be traced and restored to their rightful owners. To speed progress toward that goal, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in conjunction with the Department of State will co-host in June an international conference on Nazi assets.

As I sign this bill into law, I note that section 102(a), which purports to direct the President on how to pursue negotiations with foreign states, raises constitutional concerns. Article II of the Constitution confers on the President alone the Executive powers of the United States, which includes special authority over foreign affairs. Although I support the policies underlying this provision, it can be read to interfere with my discretion over matters of foreign policy, and I will therefore construe the provision as precatory.

There can be no way to deliver full justice for the many millions of victims of Nazi persecution, and we know that the unspeakable losses of all kinds that they suffered will never be made whole. Yet it is my hope that with this bill, we can help provide some dignity and relief to those who were subjected to the ultimate barbarism of the Holocaust, and that it will hasten the restitution that they undeniably deserve.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: S. 1564, approved February 13, was assigned Public Law No. 105–158.

## Remarks at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Reception in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*February 13, 1998*

*The President.* Thank you very much. Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Martin; thank you, Diane. I think that it was so easy to raise money for this because everybody wanted to come see your place, myself. [*Laughter*] It is a truly beautiful, beautiful home, and we thank you for having us here.

I thank Congressman Klink and Congressman Fattah and Congressman and Mrs. Holden for being here. And Joe Hoeffel, I thank you for being here and for having the courage to run again. This time I think you will be rewarded. Thank you very much.

I've had a wonderful day in Philadelphia, and the mayor has painted a rosy picture of it, but I'd say it was fairly accurate. The people of Pennsylvania have been good to me and to my family and to the Clinton-Gore administration. The people of Philadelphia have been especially good. In the last election, I think, we won the city by more than 300,000 votes. And I am very, very grateful.

I also want to thank Ed Rendell for always being there, for helping us raise money for Democrats across the country, as well as for me and for the Vice President. And I want you to know I really appreciate Martin Frost because in good times and bad times he's been willing to get out here and try to stick up for what he believes in and help his colleagues to be funded. And that's hard. And, you know, I never saw anybody any better at it than Martin Frost. He is just like a dog, to the bone, man. [*Laughter*] Every time—when I wake up in the morning and I start throwing bones to my dog, Buddy, that's the way Martin is when it comes to raising money. [*Laughter*] Martin lives in Texas. A lot of you know that Martin lives in Texas, and unfortunately, because our Coast Guard and other military personnel have gotten so good at apprehending drugs that used to come by air and by sea into the United States, more and more of the cocaine traffic has shifted

overland from Mexico with this huge volume. And I thought to myself, if Martin Frost had the same sense of finding illegal drugs he has of finding campaign contributions, he alone could shut off the flow of illegal drugs through the Mexican border. [*Laughter*] I've never seen anything like it.

But—so, I'm very grateful to all of you. And of course, I'm grateful for this turnout tonight. I'd like to just say a few words—I really didn't prepare any remarks tonight, but I have thought—I've asked myself, why was the response to the State of the Union this year, even more than other years, particularly strong? That is—we had 400,000 hits on our website for information about the State of the Union, after the address. And I think part of it is that Americans are now—it's sort of sinking in that the country is working again.

And all the Democrats here in the House will tell you, we had to work very hard for the first 4 or 5 years to make the country work again. I mean, so much was dysfunctional. When I was elected they told me that this year, if nothing happened, this year our deficit would be \$370 billion. It was supposed to be \$295 billion the first year of my Presidency. And the crime rate was going up and the welfare rolls were exploding. They reached an all-time high in February of 1994—all-time high. And we had all kinds of other real difficulties. And the country seemed to be dividing—and for 20 years—Ed talked about closing the inequality—for 20 years, average wages of people with a high school education or less had been dropping compared to inflation and inequality had been increasing among working people. And people just had the feeling things weren't working.

So we brought a new approach to Washington, and we said the Democrats may be the progressive party, but we've got to be economically responsible. You have to understand, any given time more people are working than are